

## ABSTRACT

5 The present invention provides a method and apparatus for  
altering the header having a layered structure of a frame  
in transit through a network node. Frame alteration  
commands issued by layer processing modules are assigned  
at relative positions with respect to the starting  
position of the layer. The relative positions with  
10 respect to each layer are further adjusted to adjusted  
relative positions in dependence on frame alteration  
commands previously assigned in the same layer. After  
translation of the adjusted relative positions to  
absolute positions, the frame alteration commands are  
15 executed sequentially by a frame alteration unit.